

12 November 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: INDICO [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

SUBJECT: Increased Stature of MPVO Officials

REFERENCE: NIC Indicator Guide (Draft), NIC #S-7-2222, 9 August 1957, page 11, S

1. You will recall that in the above reference, a long term indicator for improved Soviet civil defense was listed as "official or party recognition of civil defense organizations or officials, through references in the press, conferral of party status, etc."

2. Such a development has, in fact, occurred during recent months. After an absence of several years MPVO (civil defense) staff offices and personnel have reappeared in short items in the popular press. At least two MPVO officials received the decoration "For Labor Valor" on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the city of Leningrad.\*

(Colonel General Belov, chairman of DOSAAF, the organization charged with popular level civil defense training, was awarded the Order of Lenin on his 60th birthday, 22 March 1957. This decoration was, however, reported to be for World War II services.)

It is believed that renewed newspaper mention of MPVO personnel is a logical development at the present time. It is not immediately alarming, but supports the view that the Sovbloc civil defense program is being given increased publicity in an expanding program.

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Enclosure: Draft of CIA Digest Item, New Soviet Organization -- MPVO Strany, 12 November 1957, S/NOFORN

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1 - Chief, D/S ✓

\* CIA, FED Summary 1500, 8 October 1957, pages 91, 102 C  
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